

A Message from Dr. Tony Bennett

Dear Teachers and Administrators,

Our number one priority at the Indiana Department of Education is to see the career preparation and academic achievement of all Indiana students become the best in the country and on par with the most globally competitive countries around the world. In order to do so, we must measure the progress of our students, our schools and our state as a whole.

We have no better measuring stick, perhaps, than the *ISTEP+* assessment. But more than simply telling us where we are, effective interpretation of the results should tell us where to go. The Individual Student Report provides information that helps parents understand their child's academic performance. The class, school and corporation summary reports give teachers and administrators data that should help them develop comprehensive plans to drive improvement. By providing us with an accurate gauge of individual students' strengths and areas of need, *ISTEP+* results help you determine how best to deliver education to your students in a manner befitting their needs and focused on the areas where they need the most attention.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tony Bennett
Superintendent of Public Instruction

INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS (CRITERION-REFERENCED INFORMATION)

Criterion-referenced Test: A test that reports students' scores relative to a body of information thought to be important to learn (see Indiana Academic Standards).

Indiana Academic Standards: The Indiana Academic Standards define three categories of student achievement in English/language arts and mathematics (Pass+, Pass, and Did Not Pass). These levels were defined by the State Board of Education as follows:

Pass+	Meets the passing standard and demonstrates high achievement in the knowledge and skills of the content area.
Pass	Meets the passing standard.
Did Not Pass	Fails to meet the passing standard and in all likelihood will need remedial assistance.

Indiana Scale Score: Student achievement levels relative to the Indiana Academic Standards are reported by *ISTEP+* as scale scores in English/language arts and mathematics. These three-digit, equal-interval scores are expressed on unique scales by content area.

Indiana Performance Index (IPI) Score: A measure of a student's mastery of the skills tested in a specific content area as defined by the Indiana Academic Standards.

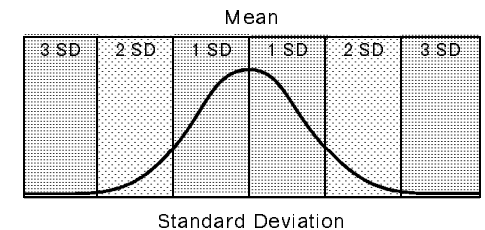
SUMMARY INFORMATION

Mean: Perhaps the most often used "average," the mean is the arithmetic average of a group of scores. It is calculated by adding the scores and dividing the sum by the number of scores.

Median: The median is another often used "average." It is defined as the score below which half of the cases fall.

Mean Scale Score: The arithmetic average of the scale scores obtained by a group of students.

Standard Deviation (SD): A statistic that indicates the amount of variability in a group of scores. When scores are normally distributed (i.e., when they are part of a bell-shaped, "normal" curve), about two-thirds of the scores are within one SD above and below the average (mean) score and about 95% of the scores are within 2 SDs of the mean. In almost any shaped distribution, all scores will be within 5 SDs above or below the mean score.



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